

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082587
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:EDSMITH:LB
APPROVED BY EUR:REBARBOUR
EUR/SE:MCLISSFELT
C:RHOPPER
S/S-O : JETHYDEN

-----051481 310053Z /63

O 310023Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082587

EXDIS - PASS DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR ON CHRISTOPHER
MISSION

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBOUR BRIEFED TURKISH
AMBASSADOR ESENBEL MARCH 30 ON SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL
PROPOSALS REGARDING TURKEY.

2. BARBOUR EXPLAINED THAT FOLLOWING RECENT VANCE VISIT TO
TURKEY, USG HAS BEEN DEVELOPING IDEAS AS TO HOW US-TURKISH
RELATIONSHIP COULD BEST BE RESTORED. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT
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CARTER'S DECISION APPROVING POLICY PROPOSALS RE TURKEY,
DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WENT TO ANKARA ON SHORT NOTICE
TO PRESENT THEM TO PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT. BARBOUR EXPLAINED
FOUR MAIN POINTS OF PROPOSALS: A) RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS
THAT 620(X) I.E. EMBARGO BE REMOVED; B) RECOMMEND DOLS 175
MILLION FMS AUTHORITY FOR FY 1979; C) RECOMMEND SECURITY
SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOAN FOR FY 79 OF DOLS 50 MILLION;

AND D) RENEGOTIATE NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY.

3. BARBOUR EXPLAINED THAT THE TURKISH REACTION TO THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND THAT THE DETAILS OF WHAT WE SAY AND WHEN ARE STILL TO BE WORKED OUT. IT APPEARED THAT WE WOULD PROBABLY MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT PRIOR TO

THE APRIL 6 HEARINGS.

4. BARBOUR COMMENTED THAT THE DECISION TO RENEGOTIATE THE DCA WAS IN PART MADE IN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CURRENT DCA NEEDS TO BE UPDATED. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT THE DCA MIGHT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE HOUSE THERE ARE DOUBTS REGARDING ITS PASSAGE BY THE SENATE. BEARING IN MIND THE CLOSE CALL ON THE PANAMA CANAL, WE WANT TO PUSH HARD ONLY IF WE FEEL WE CAN BE SURE OF BEING ABLE TO WIN. BARBOUR EXPLAINED SOME OF THE CHANGES IN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS ESPECIALLY THE INCREASING OBJECTION TO MULTIYEAR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, AS REVEALED IN CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE PHILIPPINES AND SPAIN.

5. ESENBEL'S REACTION WAS POSITIVE AND HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO HAVE A FULL AND FRANK BRIEFING SO PROMPTLY. HE
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AGAIN REPEATED HIS PAST VIEW THAT IF THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PUSH THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IN THE CONGRESS IT CAN BE PASSED. HE MENTIONED THE GENERAL DESIRE OF THE TURKISH MILITARY FOR THE VERY TYPE OF LONG-TERM COMMITMENT THAT CONGRESS IN GENERAL DOES NOT NOW FAVOR, BUT ALSO STATED THAT HE REALIZED AS A PRACTICAL MATTER SUCH COMMITMENTS WERE OFTEN SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS THE LESSON OF THE EMBARGO HAD CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED. FOR THIS REASON, THE AMBASSADOR STATED HE DID NOT TEND TO GIVE THE DCA THE OVERRIDING PRIORITY THAT MANY OF HIS COMPATRIOTS DID. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL SEEMED MORE IN LINE WITH ECEVIT'S PREFERENCES, I.E. TO FIRST REPEAL EMBARGO AND THEN RENEGOTIATE DCA. COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE082587
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EDSMITH:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780139-0274
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978032/aaaaabtk.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b15581bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3188853
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR ON CHRISTOPHER MISSION
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, MASS, TU, US
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b15581bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014